



Massachusetts State Police Report of Investigation



Case Number 2003-117-1640	Controlling Case Number
Author	Created On 11/29/2003
Lead Investigator Robert A O'Neil	Assisted by Craig Boudreau, Michael J Cook, David E Lambert, Michael S Mazza, Robert B McCarthy, David B Percy, Paul T Zipper, Frank Moore
Team Central	
Agency Assist A25 MA FD	K-9 Yes

Date of Incident 11/29/2003	Time of Incident (approximate)
Requested By:	Requested On:
Organization Lancaster Fire Department	Date 11/29/2003
Representative Chief	Time
Email Address	

Case Type (codes) F30 Fire - Accidental
Warrant Administrative
Property Type Residential

Technical Assistance Electrical Inspector; Code Enforcement; Other
Bomb Technician
Other D.M. Crossman and Son Inc.-Excavation Mark Mooney-DPS Division of Inspections/Asst. Chief of Inspections, Board of Boiler Rules/Chairman,

Street Address 76 Mill St
City / Town Lancaster
State MA
Zip Code 01561

Case Status O1 Open Active I
Approved By
Approved On
Comments Fire in occupied, three story, wood frame, multi-unit, residential structure

resulting in Firefighter FATALITY. Extensive damage throughout structure to include roof collapse. Scene secured and examination pending arrival of heavy equipment. Remains under invest. Also assisted by Worcester CPAC, CSSS.

People Allowed to Edit this [Supervisors]
Document:

Created: 11/29/2003 05:07 PM by Robert A O'Neill

Revision History 11/19/2004 07:37 PM by CN=Robert A O'Neil/OU=MSP/O=DFS
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11/23/2004 02:22 PM by CN=Robert A O'Neil/OU=MSP/O=DFS

Attach external file(s) here:



Sign in-Mill St..xls

Fire Investigation Summary Report

Case Number: 2003-117-1640
Controlling Case Number: None
Case Type: F30 Fire - Accidental

Report Creator: Robert A O'Neil
Lead Investigator(s): Robert A O'Neil Team: Central

FIU Requested By: Chief from Lancaster Fire Department
FIU Requested On:

Date and Time of Incident: 11/29/2003 at approximately
Address/ Location of Incident: 76 Mill St Lancaster, MA

Property Investigated

Type of Investigation: Fire
Type of Property: Residential

Protection Systems:

Smoke Detector: Operational
Heat Detector: Not Operational

Comments: The structure is a combination 2 1/2 story to two stories to 1 1/2 story seven unit residential apartment unit. The building is wood framed and made of balloon construction. The main building is sided with clapboard siding and the 1 1/2 story rear portion is sided with masonite siding. The roof is asphalt shingled. The building contains a full basement constructed of brick masonry.

The main house contains 1 apartment on the 1st floor, a front and rear apartment on the second floor and a single apartment on the third floor. The "L" extension contained one apartment and sat on a combination slab on grade and full basement. The rear portion of the structure contained 2 apartments which sat on a slab. The rear apts are 1 1/2 story. The main house is 2-1/2 stories and the "L" extension is 2 stories.

The electric service is a 200 amp main with a fused main disconnect. The fused disconnect feeds a 4 gang meter socket with meters installed in each position. The meter socket feeds 4-100 amp main breaker service panels and 1-60 amp fused service panel.

Apartment #1 is heated by forced hot water baseboard fueled by natural gas. The remainder of the apartments are heated by individual direct-vent natural gas fired heating units. All units were fed by threaded black-iron pipe.

The interior finish of the main building was composed of wood lathing and "horsehair" plaster.

Fire Source

Cause of Fire: Accidental
Ignition:
Material Ignited:

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Explanation:

Notification and Response

On Saturday, November 29, 2003, at approximately 0515 hours, I received a page from State Police General Headquarters. I was advised of a request for investigative assistance from the Lancaster Fire Department for a fire on Mill St. At approximately 0538 hours I received a second page from General Headquarters. At this time I was advised of a fire fighter fatality. I contacted my supervisor Sgt. David Lambert and advised him of same.

I arrived on scene at approximately 0644 hours followed shortly thereafter by Sgt. Lambert. Fire suppression operations were still in progress upon my arrival. The officer in charge was the Leominster Fire Chief. Fire Marshal Stephen Coan was on scene upon my arrival. I was advised that the deceased fire fighter was in the Sterling Fire Department ambulance which was on scene. The State Police Crime Scene Services Section and Worcester County State Police Detective Unit were contacted. Tpr. Fisher from CSSS-Devens and Tpr. Napolitano from Worcester County SPDU subsequently arrived. Detective Lt. Frank Moore, Commander of the State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Section also responded as well as Tpr. Michael Cook and Tpr. Craig Boudreau. John King from Keyspan Energy Delivery was on scene and advised that the natural gas had been turned off at the exterior supply pipe on the "B" side of the building.

I interviewed Coreen A. DUFRESNE, [REDACTED] of 70 Mill St. in Lancaster. She related that she had resided here for approximately 2 and a half to three years. She was awakened by her boyfriend, Timothy A. Minko, and looked out the window and saw smoldering white smoke from the roof of the house next door. She did not observe any flames at this time. She then observed fire fighters breaking cellar windows and as a result saw flames. She then packed some belongings and placed them in her vehicle in the event that she would have to evacuate her residence.

I then interviewed Timothy A MINKO, [REDACTED] also of 70 Mill St. in Lancaster. He related that at approximately 0400 hours he was awake in bed when he heard "77 Mill St." (that quote was coming from a speaker on a fire engine). He looked out the window and saw "steam" coming from the roof area. He saw fire fighters venting the cellar windows on the "B" side of the building. Then he saw orange/ black flames subsequently coming from those windows. He and Coreen packed some belongings.

I then interviewed Heather A. FRISKE, [REDACTED] of 77 Mill St. in Lancaster. She related that she was awakened by emergency apparatus. When she looked out the window she saw "green/ purple flames" from the cellar. She then woke her husband, Jonathan ELDRIDGE.

Jonathan ELDRIDGE advised that he was awakened by his wife, Heather. He observed orange flames from the entrance door on the D-side of the structure.

I interviewed Melissa B. PAUL, [REDACTED] of 338 Main St. in Lancaster. Ms. PAUL is a full-time nursing student at Atlantic Union College. She related that she was sleeping at the college and had been awakened twice by fire alarms there. She called her friend, Lamont

Fire Investigation Summary Report

PLOWDEN, of 76 Mill St. and asked if she could stay there. She advised that it was her second time at that residence. She was awakened by the sound of a smoke detector and observed smoke from behind the couch that she was sleeping on in the living room. She left the residence with Mr. PLOWDEN. Prior to leaving she made contact with an elderly woman whom she was not familiar with. The woman stated that the fire came from the cellar. Ms. PAUL didn't think the fire was that serious and Mr. PLOWDEN drove her back to her dorm before the fire department arrived. She said that Mr. PLOWDEN woke up first and that he was sleeping in a bedroom. She stated that she saw only smoke and no flames and that "everyone" was trying to get out.

At approximately 0910 hours Tpr. Cook, Tpr. Napolitano, and I interviewed Edward and Anne TURNER of 84 Mill St. in Lancaster. Anne TURNER related that she was up when she heard voices saying "please, please get out". She saw gray/ white smoke billowing from the house from the area of the "B" side rear. Her neighbor, Loraine MOECKEL, requested that she call 9-1-1. She woke her husband, Edward, at approximately 45-60 minutes later. The TURNERS related that they had lived in the neighborhood since 1996 and that there had been no problems there.

Sgt. Lambert, Tpr. Cook, Tpr. Boudreau and Tpr. Napolitano conducted interviews as per the attached interview index.

At approximately 0955 hours Tpr. Cook and I recovered a self-contained breathing apparatus without a face piece from the first floor living area. Tpr. Fisher photographed same. The gauges at the top of the air bottle and on the regulator valve read empty. This item was secured in a locked cabinet in the incident support unit vehicle.

At approximately 1000 hours Lancaster Building Commissioner James SHURIS arrived on scene. Mr. SHURIS related that the building was a "legal 7-family" structure with 4 units on the first level, two on the second and one on the third. Mr. SHURIS could not recall any recent permits being issued in regards to the structure. He advised that he had been the Building Commissioner for several years and that the prior inspector Jim FORD may have records that he was unaware of. I requested a history on the building in the form of any building, electrical, gas and plumbing permits or documentation of work performed. Information was provided and is referenced in the report of State Fire Marshal Code Compliance Officer John T. Fleck.

Selectman Alexandra TURNER arrived on scene during the morning and provided an assessor's card and town street listing containing names of residents, although she related that the street listing might not be accurate.

I then made contact with Wesley and Matthew MOECKEL, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] respectively. The MOECKEL's had been accompanied to the scene by their mother, Andrea R. TYMESON, [REDACTED]. Their grandmother, Loraine B. MOECKEL, is the owner of the building. Ms. TYMESON had been staying with her parents in Lunenburg on a visit from her home in West Virginia. Matthew MOECKEL provided the bulk of the following information. He related that his stepsister, Laura SPEAR, lived at the house and had called him from her cell phone and advised him of the fire. He "grabbed" Wesley with whom he lived and the two of them proceeded to the fire scene to pick up their grandmother. He said that while he was at the scene he

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observed white, blue and orange flames coming from the cellar windows on the B-side of the building after firefighters vented those windows. He stated that his grandmother told him she heard a bang, heard smoke detectors and the sound of water rushing out of the heating pipes. She also told him that the phone was not working when she tried to call 911 and that the lights were not functioning in the kitchen when she entered it. Matthew MOECKEL also indicated that he was familiar with the layout of the basement and provided a rough sketch of it.

Louis DELILLO, [REDACTED] arrived on scene and I interviewed him in the presence of his estranged wife Irma DELILLO, DOB [REDACTED] of 96 Kendall Hill Rd. in Sterling. Mr. DELILLO related that he is retired and previously worked as a minister, police officer and music teacher. He said that he was residing in apartment #5, located at the rear wing of the building, and had resided there for the past twenty-four years. Mr. DELILLO related that he was awake at approximately 0350 hours when he heard his landlady banging on the window. She told him there was a fire and to call the fire department. He called 911 but the phone "died" after he heard it ring. He stated that the lights went out also. He left the building to wait for the fire department. He got into a vehicle but he doesn't know who it belonged to. He believes he observed orange flames and brown smoke coming from the cellar windows prior to the arrival of the Fire Department. The only recent repairs to the structure that he could recall were to the roof several years ago.

I made telephone contact with an individual that identified herself as Laura J. SPEAR, [REDACTED] Ms. SPEAR related that it would be difficult for her to return to the fire scene in the immediate future as transportation was a problem and her immediate concerns were to shower and obtain adequate clothing. She was willing to provide some information via telephone however. She related that she had been living in apartment 2R but was moving to Woburn in the near future. Her boyfriend, Stephen SOSSONG, was staying in the apartment at the time of the fire. She was sleeping in the apartment when she was awakened by the sound of an alarm. Smoke had filled her apartment and she made sure that everyone was out of the building. She didn't hear any other unusual noises. She exited via the front door and was able to get her dog out of the building. She asked her neighbor to call the Fire Department. While outside the building she observed smoke for a "good half hour" until firefighters "punched in" the cellar windows at which time she observed flames. When asked what color the flames were she replied "I don't know. I never watched my house burn down before" or words to that effect.

Tpr. Napolitano attended the victim's autopsy at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Boston that was scheduled for 1300 hours. While there, he recovered the victim's clothing and firefighting turnout gear that he subsequently transported back to the scene on Mill St.

Sgt. Lambert, Tpr. Cook and Tpr. Boudreau prepared a diagram of the fire building.

Tpr. Fisher from the Crime Scene Services Section took photographs.

At approximately 1600 hours Tpr. Cook and I recovered a self-contained breathing apparatus facepiece, a firefighter's handlight and a portable radio battery from the cellar of the building. The facepiece was on top of a rectangular fan located at the bottom of the stairway against the basement wall on the A-side of the building. The handlight was on one of the steps and the radio

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battery was in the same vicinity.

Sgt. Lambert transported all recovered evidence to the Hudson Fire Department to be secured.

At approximately 1640 hours I made telephone contact with an individual that identified himself as Doug MOECKEL, son of Loraine MOECKEL. I told Mr. MOECKEL that I would like to interview his mother in regards to the fire. Mr. MOECKEL related that his mother was very emotional at this time and requested the interview to be conducted at a later time.

Due to the heavy fire damage incurred and structural instability of the building heavy equipment provided by D.M. Crossman and Son Inc. was scheduled to assist in processing of the scene. Scene security was provided by Lancaster PD and maintained through the night until further scene processing could resume on Sunday November 30, 2003.

Sunday November 30, 2003

On Sunday November 30, 2003 investigative efforts continued and scene processing resumed. Sgt. Zipper was the on scene supervisor for the State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Section. Detective Lieutenant Frank Moore was on scene at various times throughout the day. Also present from the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section were myself, Tpr. Michael Cook, Tpr. Craig Boudreau and Tpr. Robert McCarthy. Tpr. Laura Fogarty and Tpr. Colleen Campbell from the State Police Crime Scene Services Section were on scene to provide photographic and video support. Other personnel on scene throughout the day included Tpr. David Napolitano from the Worcester County State Police Detective Unit, State Fire Marshal Electrical Inspector William SCOBLE, State Building Inspector Gordon D BAILEY, Assistant Chief of Inspections/Chairman-Board of Boiler Rules Mark MOONEY and John FLECK from the State Fire Marshal's Code Enforcement Unit.

At approximately 1000 hours Tpr. Fogarty met with State Police Airwing personnel and took aerial photographs of the scene. Tpr. Campbell videotaped the scene.

At approximately 1220 hours Gardner Fire Department Tower 1 arrived on scene to provide support for scene examination purposes.

Assistant Clerk Carol HALEY of Clinton District Court issued an Administrative Search Warrant at the scene.

Tpr. Cook and Tpr. McCarthy were assigned to Origin and Cause duties and Tpr. Boudreau conducted additional interviews.

At approximately 1900 hours the scene was secured for the night with scene security being managed by the Lancaster Police Department.

Monday December 1, 2003

On Monday December 1, 2003 investigative efforts continued and scene processing resumed. Sgt. Zipper was the on scene supervisor for the State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Section.

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Other Fire and Explosion Investigation personnel on scene included Tpr. Robert McCarthy, Tpr. Michael Cook, Tpr. Michael Mazza, Tpr. Craig Boudreau and myself. Tpr. Laura Fogarty and Tpr. Heidi Wentrup from the Crime Scene Services Section were on scene to provide technical support. SA Angela Croke, SA Peter Murray, SA Mike Finnerty and SA Deb Siefert from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives arrived to provide assistance.

At approximately 0850 hours the residents of apartment 7, Sergio and Lina OBANDO, were escorted into their apartment by a local Police Officer to recover personal items.

Interviews were conducted as per the attached interview index.

Investigative personnel had secured from the scene by approximately 2130 hours and scene security was managed by the Lancaster Police Department.

Tuesday December 2, 2003 and Wednesday December 3, 2003

On Tuesday December 2, 2003 and Wednesday December 3, 2003 investigative efforts continued and were coordinated by Detective Lieutenant Frank Moore and Sgt. Paul Zipper. I was not present at the scene until approximately 1600 hours on Wednesday due to a court testimony commitment at Middlesex Superior Court.

A diagram of the scene was prepared by Sgt. Steve Walsh of the Massachusetts State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section and is maintained in the case file.

On Wednesday a final walk through of the scene was conducted and a meeting held prior to releasing the scene in the late afternoon. Among those present at this meeting were Detective Lieutenant Frank Moore, Tpr. Michael Cook, Tpr. Michael Mazza, Tpr. David Percy, Tpr. Craig Boudreau, Tpr. Robert McCarthy State Fire Marshal Electrical Inspector Barry GANNON, Frank HOGAN/Splaine Investigations and myself.

The below Origin and Cause report was completed by Tpr. Robert McCarthy and Tpr. Michael Cook.

**Report as to the Origin and Cause
Investigation of the Fire at
76 Mill Street Lancaster, MA.
November 29, 2003**

INVESTIGATION

1. On November 29, 2003, at 0334 hours, a fire occurred at 76 Mill St. Lancaster, MA. During suppressing efforts inside the building by members of the Lancaster Fire Dept. and other local fire

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dept.'s a Lancaster Fire Fighter lost his life.

2. The Massachusetts State Police Fire and Explosive Investigation Section, to attempt to determine the cause and circumstances of this fire, established an Investigative Task Force.
3. The following document is a collaborative report from the following individuals assigned to this task:

Robert McCarthy:

**Trooper, Fire and Explosion Investigation
Section, Mass. State Police**

Michael Cook:

**Trooper, Fire and Explosion Investigation
Section, Mass State Police**

4. It should be noted that the investigation effort included other individuals, and from other agencies than noted above. To effectively document the fire, however, the two above investigators were selected to jointly lead the Origin and Cause Investigation, and compile the final report.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION

5. The building was an occupied residential structure. The building located at 76 Mill St. Lancaster, MA. faced south/west onto Mill St. The structure was a 2-1/2 story, wood framed, farmhouse style building, with a 1-1/2 story rear addition. The main building consisted of four apartments, sided with clapboard and featured a gable/hip roof covered with asphalt shingles. This section of the building also had a full basement.
6. The rear addition was a 1-1/2 wood framed structure that consisted of three apartments. The two rear apartments sat on a concrete slab, and the apartment closest to the main building had a full basement.

THE INVESTIGATION

7. The Investigation as to the cause began on November 29, 2003 at approximately 0630 hours. At the time of the arrival of investigators, the building was heavily involved in fire. Fire was observed through the roof and there collapse of the roof towards the rear of the main structure.
8. Due to the nature of the fire, and ongoing fire suppression efforts, initial investigation was limited to witness interviews of the residents and first responding firefighters and police officers. Please see Investigative File for specific witness information.
9. The scene examination began on the morning of November 30, 2003. Witness statements indicated that the fire originated in the basement of the main structure towards the "C/D" corner.

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SCENE EXAMINATION

10. A scene examination was conducted by members of the Massachusetts State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Section. This examination began with the exterior of the structure utilizing the least to most methodology and fire pattern analysis.

“A” Side:

- Heavy roof damage.
- Fire vented out 3rd floor window.

“B” Side:

- Fire had burned through roof, with partial collapse.
- Smoke and heat damage from 2nd floor windows.
- Fire vented out of 1st floor window towards the “C” side corner.
- There were five basement windows, from left to right, windows 1 and 2 showed evidence of light smoke and fire damage. Windows 3 and 4 showed evidence of heavy fire damage. Window 5 only showed evidence of light fire damage.

“C” Side:

- No exterior fire damage to apartments 6 and 7.
- Extensive fire damage to the second floor of the main building and to the first floor addition of apartment 5.

“D” Side:

- Fire vented out of the 2nd and 3rd floor windows.
- Smoke and heat damage out of 1st floor windows.
- Fire vented out of middle basement window.
- There was heavy fire damage in the porch where the fire had burned up through the floor from the basement.

11. The scene examination next proceeded to the interior of the structure again utilizing the least to most methodology and fire pattern analysis. The heaviest and lowest fire damage was in the basement of the main portion of the structure. All fire damage on scene had proceeded from this area in an upward and outward manner consistent with normal fire behavior. This examination was consistent with witness observations. The basement was examined with extensive debris removal. All fire debris was examined as it was removed.

12. The heaviest fire damage in the basement was located in the “C/D” corner. All this damage was high at ceiling level. This area was examined in great detail. The following observations were made by investigators:

- Failure of joist to include directional collapse in “C/D” corner.
- Heavy fire damage to sill plate at “C/D” corner.
- On the exterior of the foundation in this area there was extensive smoke staining. This was the area under the deck located on the “D” side of the structure.

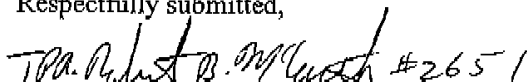
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- Clean burn on brick foundation in "C/D" corner.
 - Various types of cables hanging from ceiling.
 - Multiple cords and plug strips were located.
 - These cords and strips were feeding lamps and other appliances.
 - An orange 2-wire cord ran over the ceiling pipes into the collapsed area.
 - A 6/2 SEU conductor held up in place to measure and note arced areas.
 - A 14/2 cable running from "A" side to "C" side showing evidence of arcing through char.
 - Extension cords from the "B" side to "D" side.
 - An electrical outlet was located on the "D" wall. This was feed by a 14/2 cable, which was arced out at ceiling level. This outlet showed evidence that it electrical cords plugged into it.
 - The remains of a plug strip were located on a metal shelf next to this outlet. This plug strip was plugged into the wall outlet.
 - There was evidence that the plug strip had other electrical cords plugged into it.
13. There was five gas fed water heaters located on along the "C" wall in the basement. These were examined and demonstrated no evidence of causation of this fire. There were no evidence or indicators to support this may have been an incendiary fire. Seven gas meters were located along the "B" wall in the basement. These meters were examined. Two showed evidence of failure. This failure was a result of the fire.
14. An electrical examination of the electrical components and appliances was conducted by William Scoble.
15. During the scene examination it was evident that the basement was being utilized a as living area. Beds along with clothing and other furniture was observed by investigators.

OPINION

16. Based on firefighters statements, witness statements, scene examination, physical evidence and arc mapping it is the opinion of investigators that the area origin was in the "C/D" corner of the basement near or at ceiling level. Due to structural collapse it was not possible to completely reconstruct the scene. An exact point of origin could not be determined. It is further the opinion of investigators the most likely cause of this fire was an unspecified electrical event in the area of origin.

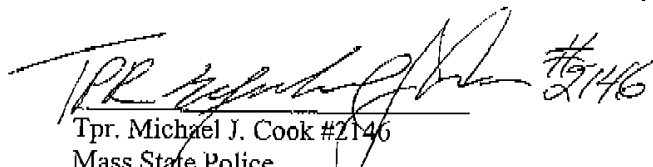
Respectfully submitted,


Tpr. Robert B. McCarthy #2651

Mass. State Police

Fire & Explosion Investigation Section

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 Tpr. Michael J. Cook #2146
 Mass State Police
 Fire & Explosion Investigation Section

Interview Index

<u>Interviewer-Date</u>	<u>Person Interviewed</u>	<u>Investigative Significance</u>
Sgt. Lambert-11/29/03	Ivette REYES	Resident-Apartment 6
Sgt. Zipper-11/30/03	Dale DIMECO	Lancaster Firefighter
Sgt. Zipper-12/01/03	Kenneth W. RAUSCHER	Lancaster Plmbg./Gas Insp.
Tpr. Cook-11/29/03	Steven DIMECO	Clinton Firefighter
Tpr. Cook-11/29/03	Paul O'CONNELL	Clinton Firefighter
Tpr. Cook-11/29/03	Terrence PARKER	Clinton Firefighter
Tpr. Cook-11/29/03	Edward MCNAMARA	Clinton Firefighter
Tpr. Cook-11/29/03	Edward PLOWDEN	Resident-Apartment 2F
Tpr. Boudreau-11/29/03	David JOHNSON	Sterling Fire Lieutenant
Tpr. Boudreau-11/29/03	Sergio and Lina OBANDO	Resident-Apartment 7
Tpr. Boudreau-11/30/03	Patrick MCCLAUGHLIN	Devens/Lancaster Firefighter
Tpr. Boudreau-11/30/03	Marc MATTHEWS	Devens Firefighter
Tpr. Boudreau-11/30/03	Andrew MORTIMER	Lancaster Fire Captain
Tpr. Boudreau-11/30/03	Loraine B. MOECKEL	Owner-76 Mill Street
Tpr. Boudreau-11/30/03	Robert MONTGOMERY	Owner's Grandson
Tpr. O'Neil-11/29/03	Coreen A. DUFRESNE	Neighbor-70 Mill St.
Tpr. O'Neil-11/29/03	Timothy A MINKO	Neighbor-70 Mill St.
Tpr. O'Neil-11/29/03	Heather A. FRISKE	Neighbor-77 Mill St.
Tpr. O'Neil-11/29/03	Jonathan ELDRIDGE	Neighbor-77 Mill St.
Tpr. O'Neil-11/29/03	Melissa B. PAUL	Guest-Apartment 2F
Tprs. O'Neil, Cook, Napolitano-11/29/03	Edward and Anne TURNER	Neighbors-84 Mill St
Tpr. O'Neil-11/29/03	James SHURIS	Lancaster Bldg. Cmsnr.
Tpr. O'Neil-11/29/03	Wesley and Matthew MOECKEL	Owner's Grandsons
Tpr. O'Neil-11/29/03	Louis DELILLO	Resident-Apartment 5
Tpr. O'Neil-11/29/03	Laura J. SPEAR	Resident-Apartment 2R

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Tpr. O'Neil-12/01/03	Alfred M. ROBERTS	Lancaster Wiring Inspector
Tpr. O'Neil-12/01/03	Neville B. LENDOR	Resident-3rd floor
Tpr. O'Neil-12/09/03	John E. MCLAUGHLIN	Clinton Deputy Fire Chief
Tpr. McCarthy-11/30/03	Christine Duggan	Lancaster Police Officer
Tpr. McCarthy-11/30/03	Brett Thompson	Lancaster Police Officer
Tpr. McCarthy-11/30/03	Wesley MOECKEL	Owner's Grandson
Tpr. Napolitano-11/29/03	Kevin W. GREBINAR	Sterling Firefighter
Tpr. Napolitano-11/29/03	Marc R. MATTHEWS	Devens Firefighter
Tpr. Napolitano-11/30/03	Sandor FORD	Lancaster Deputy Fire Chief
SA Croke-12/01/03	Rodney MCFADDEN	Resident-Apartment 2F
SA Croke-12/01/03	Roberto and Ivette REYES	Residents-Apartment 6

Interviews

Witness Interview 2003-117-1640 11/29/03 Lancaster Fatal Fire Scene

Witness: Ivette Reyes [REDACTED]
76 Mill St. Apt #6, Lancaster, MA

Works at: Dunn & Co., 75 Green St. Clinton, MA 01510
Phone: 978-368-8505

On 11-29-03 at approximately 0845 hours, I interviewed Ivette Reyes, an apartment occupant at 76 Mill St. Lancaster regarding the fatal fire incident at that location. The interview was conducted in the interview area of the ISU in Lancaster with Officer Jorge Martinez from Clinton PD as an interpreter as Mrs. Reyes spoke limited English.

Reyes states that she heard the smoke alarm went off at approximately 0300 hours. She went to her apartment door and saw smoke in the hallway. When she came out to the porch of her apartment, the female owner of the building, Mrs. Lorraine Moeckel told Reyes to get out of the building. She told Martinez and I that all she could smell was smoke at that time. She went back to get her niece, Maria Franco [REDACTED] of 429 High St. Clinton, MA who was staying over that night. They exited through the side door and saw other residents coming from their apartments. She believes that four people came out the front of the building and believes that six people in were outside when she exited. She believed that there was an older man living in apartment 5, she and her husband was living in apartment 6 and apartment 7 was vacant. She also believes that a boyfriend and girlfriend lived in the third floor apartment.

Reyes stated that she did not see any flames in the building, just smoke from the front of the house. Reyes believes that "it (smoke) was coming from the basement." Reyes described it as like a cloud, whitish colored. Reyes came out from the back of the building after exiting, walked out to the front and saw smoke at the front of the house.

Once she came around front, one of the neighborhood women asked Reyes what happened.

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Reyes did not know who this female was but believed she lived in an apartment with her brother.

I then asked her about the basement area of the apartment building. Reyes states that she didn't know what was in the basement. She doesn't store anything there and thought that the owner was the only access to the basement area. She didn't believe that there was any construction or work being done in the building. She reports that there were no problems with the owner nor with the building. Reyes stated that she did not hear or observe any explosions or booms, etc. Reyes did not know of any problems with utilities or anything else.

I also interviewed Maria Franco, Reyes' t [REDACTED] niece who also said that she saw smoke but know flames. She did not hear anything however and was woken up by her aunt. We ended the initial interview with Reyes at that time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sgt David Lambert,
Fire and Explosion Investigation Section
Massachusetts State Police

Interview of:
Dale DiMcco
7 Sprague Rd. Clinton, MA.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Lancaster Fire
Interviewed at: 10:54am
Interviewed by: Sgt. Zipper #2096

- 0330 hrs. by page
- Responded to scene in PC
- Worked with first Sterling crew in
- We conducted a third floor search with Dale Johnson from Sterling
- Negative on third floor
- Heat in well
- We backed up
- On our way out second floor smoke had banked to floor
- We headed out
- I learned help was needed in basement
- I went downstairs to ceiling: smoke, little heat but saw no fire
- I found first man down
- DC McGlaughlin 3' from bottom of stairs
- I pulled him to stairs; I got him out
- No idea

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Interview of:
Kenneth Rausche – Plumbing & Gas Inspector/ Lancaster
12 Clamssell Rd. Clinton, MA 01510

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Interviewed on: 12-01-03

Interviewed at: 10:22am

Interviewed by: Sgt. Zipper #2096

I am the plumbing and gas inspector for the town of Lancaster. I am also the plumbing inspector in the town of Clinton. I have held my position since August of 1984. The first and only time I was in 76 Mill St. was November 20th of 2000. They changed a water heater. At the time everything was fine. CHL mechanical did the work. They are very reputable. They did a total of 3 water heaters. They pulled permits for each one, (#00-95), all done on 11-20-00. On 2-15-00 pulled another permit (#00-8) for another replacement. On October 3, 2003, Sterling plumbing pulled a permit (#03-95) for a replacement heater (Apt. #1). That is the extent of involvement the town has had with 76 Mill St. RE: plumbing and gas permits.

Interview of:
Steven DiMeco, Lancaster FD
Interviewed by: Tpr Cook on 11-29-03

- Him/ Marty/ Capt. Mortimer/ Dep. Ford
- Capt. Front door
- Smoke front door/ windows (grey)

- Him/ Marty/ Ed Bring in line
- Masked up smoke, little fire, Poss C on ceiling by two rooms

- Marty on nozzle/ started getting hot
- Think black smoke, John Boy and Marty on nozzle, started to get disoriented, hung up on wires, lost line, was pushed from behind by Marty? Dep. Chief last out?

Dep. Chief Ford has helmet, @ scene will check W/ Sgt. Lambert
Basement door open

Fire Fighter/ Police Officer Interview

Interview of:
Paul O'Connell: Fire Fighter/ EMT
Incident #: 109798
11-29-03

Fire Investigation Summary Report

Incident time: 0337 hrs.
Date of Interview: 11-29-03
Time of Interview: 11 AM
Interviewed by: Tpr. Cook

- On 11-29-03 @ 0344 hrs. @ the scene on Mill St. Lancaster, MA.
 - On the scene as mutual aid Engine Comp.
 - Arrived in Engine 6 driven
 - Received specific instructions: "Command notified us that we would be first engine comp. on scene. Went to stretch a line to cellar."
 - Received these instructions from Lancaster command
 - First observations and actions: Pulled past building to delta side; light smoke showing to the back of building
 - Exact location of performed duties: pump operation
 - Cellar was burning
 - Volume of fire was unknown
 - Volume of smoke was light
 - Degree of heat intensity was unknown
 - Fire decreased in intensity when water was applied
 - No personal forced entry
 - Did not personally find any physical evidence
 - Did not discuss evidence with anyone
- **SEE ATTACHED FIRE FIGHTER/ POLICE OFFICER INTERVIEW SHEET WITH DIAGRAM OF FIRE AS DRAWN BY INTERVIEWEE (IN CASE FILE)**

Fire Fighter/ Police Officer Interview

Interview of:
Terrence Parker: Fire Fighter
Incident #: 109798
11-29-03
Incident time: 0337 hrs.
Date of Interview: 11-29-03
Interviewed by: Tpr. Cook

- On 11-29-03 arrived on the scene of fire incident @ Mill St. Lancaster, MA.
- Capacity was mutual
- Arrived in 9E6 first line
- Specific orders or instructions: First line in; attack the basement
- Received instructions from Deputy McLaughlin who received them from Deputy Ford (Lancaster)
- Advanced 200' 1 ¼ to doorway, straightened out kinks
- Exact location(s) where you performed duties: top of stairs of basement, keeping kinks out

Fire Investigation Summary Report

of line, and to make sure exit was clear, and advance line to attack line

- Did not make it to the basement
- Volume of fire was light
- Did not see any flames
- Color of smoke was grey
- Degree of heat intensity was slight
- Did not note any flashover from the fire
- Did not detect any unusual or peculiar odors
- No personal forced entry
- Did not personally find any physical evidence
- Cannot give a physical description of anyone at the scene upon your arrival (such as height, weight, nationality, clothing, etc.)

- **SEE ATTACHED FIRE FIGHTER/ POLICE OFFICER INTERVIEW SHEET WITH DIAGRAM OF FIRE AS DRAWN BY INTERVIEWEE (IN CASE FILE)**

Fire Fighter/ Police Officer Interview

Interview of:

Edward McNamara: Fire Fighter

Incident #: 109798

11-29-03

Incident time: 0337 hrs.

Date of Interview: 11-29-03

Interviewed by: Tpr. Cook

- What capacity were you on the scene of this incident? – Mutual Aid 9E6 First Line
- Specific instructions to get the irons from E6 and go to the basement
- Received instructions from 9C1
- First observations and actions: light smoke front hall, not much heat in basement at first, checked line for kinks per 9C1; told fire fighter Parker no one else to basement per 9C1
- Exact location of duties performed: basement and room off basement
- Ceiling in room and ceiling C/D corner was burning
- Volume of fire was moderate
- Color of flames were orange
- Volume of smoke was heavy
- Color of smoke was white to black
- Degree of heat intensity was moderate
- There was difficulty reaching the seat of the fire: basement was cut up into rooms and large amount of material in basement
- Did not note any flashover from the fire
- Did not detect any unusual or peculiar odors
- No personal forced entry

Fire Investigation Summary Report

- Was not aware of any doors/ windows closed, but unlocked
- Did not personally find any physical evidence
- Did not discuss evidence with anyone

SEE ATTACHED FIRE FIGHTER/ POLICE OFFICER INTERVIEW SHEET WITH DIAGRAM OF FIRE AS DRAWN BY INTERVIEWEE (IN CASE FILE)

Interview Of:
 Edward I. Plowden
 76 Mill St. Lancaster, MA.
 10-1-77

Interviewed by: Tpr. Cook

- 2nd Floor Front
- About 0315 Hrs.
- Loud boom/ tremble, then fire alarms
- Looked out/ nothing
- Back to get coat/ dark grey smoke
- Could not see stairs
- Smoke coming from behind the couch/ exited through back fire escape
- (Malisa Paul) – Girls
- Dorm @ AUC – Staying over NO INS
- 7 Apts. Total
- Top Floor in NY
- Neville Lender

Interview Of:
 Lieutenant David Johnson
 Sterling Fire Department
 Engine 5
 11/29/2003 1000 Hrs
 Location:
 76 Mill St Clinton
 Interviewed by:
 Trooper Craig Boudreau #2131

- Arrived on scene (close to first truck to arrive)
- No visible fire
- Light smoke condition (white)
- First orders were to do a primary search of the third floor
- Order was given by Sterling Chief David Hurlbut

Fire Investigation Summary Report

- LT Johnson/Firefighters Kevin Grebbiner/Brendan Winward and David Greenwood from Sterling Fire along with Lancaster Firefighter Dale Dimico went to the third floor
- They entered the structure through the "A" side front door and walked up the stairs.
- There was very light smoke on the stairs
- At the top of the stairs (on the third floor) Firefighter Winward forced open door.
- They entered and there was a light smoke condition
- Power was still on (verified by lights on)
- Opened all windows in third floor apartment
- Looked in the eves through scuttle door and saw light smoke
- Once windows were opened smoke cleared out
- Firefighter Grebbiner opened cabinets under sink in kitchen and saw smoke (fire?)
- Follow up reveals no fire under sink
- No hose line was brought to third floor
- Just a primary search conducted on third floor
- Finished search and went back down stairs
- While exiting structure after search a Firefighter came out front door and said his crew was in basement working and he was out of air
- LT Johnson and Firefighter Grebbiner went down to the basement
- Unknown if anyone else followed them down
- LT Johnson met another Firefighter in the hall before going down the basement stairs
- He told LT Johnson there were two more Firefighters in the basement and to hurry up and help them
- LT Johnson headed down the stairs (hose line was already in place)
- Basically, they followed the charged hose line to the basement
- On stairs going down to the basement LT Johnson met another Firefighter who stated he was out of air and there was one more Firefighter in the basement
- Very hot and heavy smoke in the basement
- No fire on the stairs when they first entered
- LT Johnson yelled back to Firefighter Grebbiner and told him we have another Firefighter on his way out
- LT Johnson reached basement floor
- Floor was very cluttered (screens/storm sash) on top of hose line
- LT Johnson advises very difficult time getting in basement once at the bottom of steps
- LT Johnson began yelling for Firefighter Grebbiner
- LT Johnson advises all he can see is blue and red flames rolling and creating thick black smoke
- The flames are coming from the "C" side of the structure
- LT Johnson states there is a wall or something on the "B" side making it difficult to get by
- LT Johnson continued to try and follow the hose line towards the "C" side
- LT Johnson had contact with Firefighter Grebbiner the entire time (yelling back and forth)
- They continued toward the "C" side yelling out for the missing Firefighter
- They were crawling along the floor searching and yelling to turn on your PASS Device
- There were no PASS Devices heard going off
- They continued crawling along the hose line searching but were unable to make it to the nozzle
- LT Johnson came across missing Firefighter
- He was attempting to crawl toward LT Johnson

Fire Investigation Summary Report

- Firefighter Marty McNamara yelled to LT Johnson to get him out of here
- LT Johnson grabbed the straps on his SCBA and felt his face
- Firefighter McNamara did not have a mask on
- LT Johnson grabbed his harness and pulled him back to the bottom of the stairs
- Firefighter Grebbiner was at the bottom of the stairs
- LT Johnson tells Firefighter Grebbiner to grab Firefighter Marty McNamara's shoulder straps
- Firefighter Grebbiner grabs the shoulder straps
- LT Johnson went for his feet but they couldn't move him
- LT Johnson called on radio for help, however, he cannot recall if anyone answered
- LT Johnson advises basement became extremely hot and they had no option but to leave him
- LT Johnson and Firefighter Grebbiner came up and out.
- They met the Devens Firefighters and told them that Firefighter Marty McNamara was at the bottom of the stairs
- Devens Firefighters went in
- Devens Firefighters went in and the "all out" was sounded

Interview of:
Sergio Obando

76 Mill St. Apt. #7 Lancaster, MA.

Time of Interview: 1040 hrs.

Location: On Scene

Date: 11-29-03

Interviewed by: Tpr. Boudreau

- Lives on 1st floor, last apt.
- Lived in apt. since June 2003
- No electrical problems in apt.
- Gas stove
- Was not home at time of the fire
- Sergio left at about 11pm
- Went to watch movies at friend's house
- Karla in Worcester
- When Sergio left no one was home
- Sergio locked the door when he left
- Has battery smoke detectors
- Have candles but doesn't use them/ for decoration only
- No Christmas trees set up yet
- (1) power strip in living room
- computer/ TV/VCR/DVD player
- total of about 10 outlets on strip
- 2/3 empty outlets on strip

Fire Investigation Summary Report

- (1) power strip in Lina's room
- 2 lamps/ cell phone charger/ alarm clock
- 1 slot left
- Went to Denny's at about 4:30-5am (West Boylston area)
- When getting into car after eating received a cell phone call from Lina @ 4:59
- Lina told Sergio that the main house was on fire and to come home
- Sergio arrived at about 5:30-5:45
- Smokes but not in the house
- Heat: Sergio's OFF
- Heat: Lina's OFF
- Heat: Bathroom ON/ Minimum
- Heat: Living room ON/ Minimum
- No heater in kitchen
- Sergio did not smell or observe anything out of the ordinary when he left
- Sergio left 1 kitchen light on (ceiling light)
- Not sure if he has renter's insurance
- [REDACTED] per month for apt.

Sergio Bedroom:

- Alarm clock plugged in
- Lamp plugged in/ not on
- Charger for cell phone plugged in but not charging

Bathroom:

- 1 outlet: nothing plugged in
- Light off (on wall)

Lina's room:

- Lamp plugged in but off
- Alarm clock on

Kitchen:

- Microwave plugged in
- Refrigerator plugged in

Interview of:
Lina Obando

[REDACTED]
76 Mill St. Apt. #7 Lancaster, MA.

[REDACTED]
Time of Interview: 1040 hrs.

Location: On Scene

Fire Investigation Summary Report

Date: 11-29-03

Interviewed by: Tpr. Boudreau

- Left house @ 8:30pm
- Went to boyfriend's house in Clinton
- Wes Moeckel
- Boyfriend took Lina to work @ 10pm at Perkins School
- Usual work shift 10pm to 8am
- Boyfriend called Lina at about 3:45am and said the house was on fire
- Supervisor (Jason Patterson) drove Lina back to house and dropped her off on Main St.
- Lina walked to front of house where she met her boyfriend (boyfriend is grandson of owner)
- Lina called her brother

***There has been continuous work going on in the house: painting/ ; redid 3rd fl.

Interview of:

Deputy Chief Patrick McGloughlin

Lancaster Fire

Interviewed on: 11-30-03

Interviewed at: 0930 hrs.

Interviewed by: Tpr. Boudreau

- On duty at Devens
- Arrived on scene on Devens ladder truck
- Lt. Rick Hewitt/ FF Mark Matthews/ FF John Mayo/ FF Kevin Cullaninc
- Jumped off truck, ran over to house because he was advised there was a missing fire fighter
- At front stairs a fire fighter was being carried out (John Boy) was put on stretcher
- John Boy picked his head and asked if everyone was out and then went unconscious again
- Mark and myself (other guys?) went down to basement; when we got ½ way down, all horns blew to evacuate the building
- Blue flames started rolling across ceiling toward them so they backed out
- Heavy smoke conditions when they entered front as well as in the basement
- Made it down the basement steps about 3-4 left to bottom; Mark was in front of me
- Came to top of steps and exited the building
- Once out front we had fire fighter break all basement windows
- Eventually blue flames were coming out of all basement windows
- Lot of fire on 2nd floor, mostly contents
- 4-5 minutes after exiting building heavy fire on 2nd floor
- Took a 2 ½ line and put in basement window at A/B corner
- Knocked some fire down but it kept re-igniting
- Had to wait for Keyspan to arrive
- Keyspan arrived/ shut gas down

Fire Investigation Summary Report

- We were then able to knock fire down in basement focusing on front of house
- While waiting for keyspan master streams convncd on all sides of the building
- Wind was blowing to back of building
- Mark (1st)/ Patrick (2nd)/ Hurlbut (3rd)/ Hewitt (4th)
- Went down basement stairs
- Light smoke condition
- At bottom of stairs found victim at
- Victim was underwater
- Grabbed victim and wrapped webbing around him
- Mark went to feet/ Pat went to top
- Pulled him to stairs
- When victim was pulled out of water his pass was going off
- Pass was shut off by Pat
- Basement started filling up with smoke again fast
- Step by step they were pulling victim up stairs
- About ½ up steps Hurlbut pulled Pat out
- Pat came outside and went off to the side
- New guys went down; pulled victim up and left him inside door
- Once everyone was out master streams were on
- Most of the fire at this point was on 2nd floor working through the roof
- Once most of the fire was knocked down, streams were shut off and victim was recovered

Interview of:

Marc Matthews: Fire Fighter/ Devens Fire

Interviewed on: 11-30-03

Interviewed at: 1015 hrs.

Interviewed by: Tpr. Boudreau

- Arrived at scene on Devens ladder
- Told they need a RIT team
- Assembled: Mark/ Pat/ Kevin Cullanine/ Lt. Rick Hewitt
- Grabbed all gear
- Mark went followed by Patrick and then the others
- Went down basement steps
- Heavy smoke once entered front door
- Went down steps on buttocks
- Heavy smoke in stairway/ no visibility
- Almost at bottom of steps/ scanned with camera
- Could hear a faint pass device
- Told Pat he could hear pass device, turned towards Pat to talk to him
- Dropped camera and looked up
- Saw flames (bluish/ orange) rolling from "B" to "A/D"

Fire Investigation Summary Report

- Heard air horns
- Turned around and exited front door
- When he looked back, saw blue flames
- Went to I/C told them what they had
- Wind changed
- Went back to basement (Mark/ Pat/ Hurbut/ Hewitt)
- Smoke conditions in basement still
- Saw victim in basement
- Told Pat saw victim at...
- Mask was off
- Pat threw Mark a picce of webbing; it was tied around victim's harness
- Gave loop to Pat
- Mark grabbed his legs/ Pat pulled
- Got victim partially up stairs but they were called out again
- Smoke was getting very bad again in bascment so they had to leave victim again

Interview of:

Andrew Mortimer; Captain, Lancaster Fire

Interviewed on: 11-30-03

Interviewed at: 1040 hrs.

Interviewed by: Tpr. Boudreau

- Arrived on scene in own truck
- No fire truck on scene
- Police cruiser on scene
- No smoke/ fire showing
- Front door was closed
- Bunch of people out front
- PD advised everyone was evacuated
- Went in front door
- Door to cellar was open
- Smoke coming out of basement
- Could hear crackling
- Called DC Ford and advised him they had a working fire
- Came back outside at that point
- Met DC Sanford
- Did a quick exterior side up
- DC Ford had Lancaster ladder company do primary search
- Had engine 6 take line to bascment
- John McGlaughlin (DC Clinton), FF Eddy McNamara (Clinton), Steve DiMeco (Lancaster), Marty McNamara (Lancaster)
- Lancaster rescue joined up with Clinton Engine 6

Fire Investigation Summary Report

- Ran a line to basement
 - DC Ford sent Capt. Mortimer inside to get a report back out to command, Capt. Mortimer also helped pull a line into basement
 - Capt. Mortimer went in house, followed hose line to basement
 - Encountered heavy smoke and some heat in stairway to basement
 - They were knocking fire down
 - JohnBoy advised they think they have it knocked down and they have enough help
 - Capt. Mortimer went back out to report to Ford
 - JohnBoy said to go ahead and vent basement. Ford confirmed with JohnBoy over radio
 - Ford had Sterling go set up fan at front door
 - Capt. Mortimer went for a new tank, by the time he got his gear squared away, Eddie McNamara came out of house
 - FF were bailing out of house
 - They were looking for fresh guys to go in because there was (1) fire fighter left
 - FF Michael Hanson (Lancaster) and Capt. Mortimer and a Sterling FF went down basement steps (Sterling/ Mortimer/ Michael order coming down steps)
 - Sterling RIT team was in basement hall
 - Black smoke and extremely hot
 - All three turned around and went back up stairs
 - FF down in basement were quick to follow
 - When outside saw blue flame coming out of cellar
 - While on stairs to basement, alarm sounded for everyone to get out
- Confirmed that Marty McNamara was the victim

Interview of:
 Loraine B. Moeckel
 76 Mill St Lancaster, Ma
 [REDACTED]
 11/30/2003 1500 Hrs
 Interviewed by:
 Trooper Craig Boudreau #2131

How long have you lived in the house?
 Since 1975. We bought it in 1963.

Do you own the house or have a mortgage?
 I have a mortgage with the [REDACTED]

What is the mortgage on the house?
 [REDACTED]

Who is your insurance company?

Fire Investigation Summary Report

insurance agency out of Lancaster.

When did you first become aware of the smoke or the fire?
I heard a noise that sounded like a small back fire or explosion.
It woke me up. I had only been asleep for a couple hours.

What happened next?
I ran to the window and looked out towards the street. I thought it was a car.

Did you see anything outside?
No. While looking out the window I was smelling smoke. I looked down and saw smoke coming up from the forced hot water pipes in the baseboard.

What did you do next?
I ran to the basement door. First I had to grab the key off the bookcase. Went to the basement door, unlocked the padlock. I opened it and all the smoke went in my face.

What color was the smoke?
It wasn't white or black. Brown I guess.

Do you lock the basement door each night?
Yes. I am very security conscience.

Who has a key to the basement door?
Nobody but me. The one key sits on the bookcase in my apartment.

What did you do with the padlock?
I imagine I put it back on the bookcase with the key still in it.

What happened next?
I ran into the kitchen to call 911 but the phone didn't work and the lights were off out there.

So what did you do?
By that time there was a lot of smoke so I ran out of the laundry door on "B" side.
While I was coming out the laundry room door the second floor tenants (Lamoth Plowden and a friend who stayed overnight) were coming down the fire escape.

Where did you go when you came out?
I knocked on tenants window (DeLillo) out back. I told him to call 911. He tried and his phone did not work and his lights also did not work.

What happened next?
I went next door to make sure the other tenants (Evette Reyes) were all right.

Where did you go next?

Fire Investigation Summary Report

We checked the other apartment (Obando) but nobody was home.
The fellow on the third floor was gone for Thanksgiving and wasn't there.

Then what happened?

The second floor residents also exited the building at about this time. (Laura Spear exited out of the side entrance by the side porch/ Plowden and his visitor came down the fire escape)

What did you do next?

I had Spear's friend call 911 on the cell phone.

Where were all of you at this time?

In the driveway.

What happened next?

The police came and asked everyone to stay together so they knew everyone was alright.

While waiting for the fire department to arrive what were your observations?

I saw smoke coming out of the doors that were open. The front door and the laundry door. I propped open the storm door by the laundry room where I exited to try and let the smoke out. I propped open the main front door also.

Did you see fire at any time?

Not while in the house.

When you opened the basement door did you see any fire or reflections off the wall?

No just black and smoky.

You wanted to add something?

You stated while looking out the window when you initially woke up you heard water rushing around the baseboard heat.

Anything else while you were in your apartment?

It was absolutely quiet except for the fire alarms.

What point did the fire alarms go off?

They went off immediately when I woke up.

What type of fire alarms do you have?

Hardwired and battery smoke detectors.

Where were they located?

In every apartment I had a battery and hardwired alarm.

There were three systems smokes (2) and heat.

How many fire extinguishers are in the house and where are they located

Each apartment has one and at least one on each floor. Each year Graves Fire Protection comes in

Fire Investigation Summary Report

and checks all the fire extinguishers. At least 6 large ones and 2 in the basement.

Have you done any work on the house recently?

Yes, in May we remodeled the third floor and put a new roof on the back. We replaced some of the slates on the main roof.

Who was the contractor?

Northeast out of maybe Fitchburg or Leominster. When I made the check out to them it didn't say Northeast. When questioned he said it was part of his company.

How long were they there?

Only about 1/2 day.

Any other work done on the house recently?

New showers put in the back apartments earlier in the year.

Who did the plumbing work?

Immediate Plumbing out of Clinton did the showers. They also put a new circulator in the furnace. George Duchnowski did the plumbing on the third floor from February to May on and off.

When was the circulator put in?

Probably August.

Has there been any electrical work done recently?

Mark Montgomery did the electrical work from January to May. Probably put in new GFI receptacles on third floor.

Who usually sleep in the basement?

Nobody right now. Sometimes the grandson's when they are between apartments. We've had as many as 1/2 at a time. We have three beds down there.

When was the last time someone has been sleeping down there?

Wesley about a month ago.

How often do you go down to the basement?

Every day somebody goes down there.

When was the last time someone went down there before the fire?

I was down there that day.

Do you recall what time?

It would have been in the afternoon before dark.

Do you recall why you were down there?

I took some toilet paper down there.

Fire Investigation Summary Report

Did anyone else go down to the basement after you?

No, I locked the door

Did you notice or smell anything out of the ordinary when you were down there?

No.

Do you have any idea what may have caused the fire?

The only thing I can think of is there is five hot water heaters in a row down there in the back right corner. I had mine replaced about a month or two ago. All the water heaters are rented. The New England Water Heater Company owns the heaters and they send a sub contractor.

Anything else in the basement you can think of?

The gas alarm is near the water heaters. It is plugged in. I don't believe it was going off.

When was the last time you heard the gas alarm go off?

Not for months or years.

What are the heating systems in the house?

My apartment is forced hot water fueled by gas and the other apartments are direct vent heaters or plugged into chimneys.

Has any work been done on the heating systems?

No, Only to relight the pilot once and awhile.

Did you smell any gas while you were in the house or at any time?

No.

What do you have stored in the basement?

There are three beds, metal shelving units around most of the basement, some furniture. There is a standing floor heater fueled by gas vented into the chimney

How many rooms are there in the basement?

Just one wall makes the hallway when you first come into the basement.

How about servicing of heating system?

None recently.

What about power strips in the basement?

There is one that the television is plugged into and maybe the VCR.

Was the television and VCR in the basement?

Yes, by the electric meters.

Was any work done on the gas lines?

They dug up our driveway about three years ago to upgrade our service and fix it so they could

Fire Investigation Summary Report

read the meters from outside. They also replaced all the meters in the basement. They come every so many years to replace the gas meters.

Does your house have any alarm system?

No.

Do you have breakers or fuses?

Combination of both in the house.

Interview of:

Robert E Montgomery

50 Summer St. Leominster, MA.

Interviewed on: 11-30-03

Interviewed at: 1215 hrs.

Interviewed by: Tpr. Boudreau

- Grandmother owns house
- Lived in house about 5 years ago for about 2 years
- Came to house everyday almost to see grandmother
- Last in house Friday 11-28
- 7 total units in house
- 4 in main house and 3 in rear

Interview of Alfred M. ROBERTS,

73 Prescott St. South Lancaster, MA

Interview conducted in Incident Support Unit by Tpr. Robert A. O'Neil on Monday December 1, 2003 at approximately 0830 hours.

Mr. ROBERTS related that he has been the Wiring Inspector for the town of Lancaster since the "last half" of 2000. Prior to that he had been the Assistant Wiring Inspector for the town of Lancaster for over thirty years.

As the Wiring Inspector he was part of the permitting process and had access to records relating to the application and issuance of electrical permits. He was unaware of any electrical work performed at 76 Mill St. and could not locate any records to the contrary. He related that he did not currently have access to permits and associated records that were issued prior to his transition from Assistant Wiring Inspector to Inspector.

Fire Investigation Summary Report

As the Assistant Wiring Inspector he was not part of the permitting process and had no recollection of any electrical work being performed on the building. The only time he remembers being at 76 Mill St. was approximately ten years ago to a party on the second floor. This occasion was through social affiliations of his children and not work related.

No additional information was obtained from Mr. ROBERTS at this time.

Neville B. Lendor

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3rd Floor 76 Mill Street

Lancaster, MA

December 1, 2003

Interviewed by Tpr. Robert A. O'Neil in ISU

Lived at 76 Mill Street in Lancaster since June 2003, officially stayed in the apartment since school started in August 2003. He is a student at Atlantic Union College.

Rent initially [REDACTED], rent currently at [REDACTED] had a contract and was told that by January the rent was going to increase to [REDACTED]

Separate gas and electric bill. Separate utilities.

Neville was last in the building on Wednesday November 26, 2003, left at about 8:00pm to New York with girlfriend and three others. He learned of the fire on Saturday morning at 11:00am on his way to church.

Sheldon contacted his roommate Malik, Malik called his brother Max, Max called Neville's girlfriend on her cell phone (Fernan Barrie girl's dorm at AFC [REDACTED])

Arrived to Lancaster at approximately 10:40 pm with his girlfriend and three others.

Stayed at friend's house when he arrived because he could not get in contact with the dean right away.

Dad does construction and his biggest concern was that the furnace attached to the wall looked like a fire hazard. There was nothing specific but concern came mostly from the age of the unit and the fact that all was panel.

Believes a gas tank fed the furnacc.

All the heat came out of one box that had one control right next to it and it went out the left side of the house.

Is not aware of any problems or disputes with tenants.

No concerns or suspicions about the fire.

His roommate Lemont said there was an explosion.

He is not aware of anyone living in the cellar.

Does not know much due to the fact that he was out of state at the time of the fire.

He asked for contact info and for red cross info.

Fire Investigation Summary Report

Statement of Deputy John E. MCLAUGHLIN [REDACTED] taken by Tpr. Robert A. O'Neil on
Tuesday December 9, 2003 at SP Devcns.

Interview began at approximately 1000 hours
Interview ended approximately 1200 hours

Q. Were you working and what was your assignment on November 29, 2003?

A. I was working as the shift commander at the Clinton Fire Department

Q. How were you advised of the fire in Lancaster?

A. Lancaster dispatch requested mutual aid via radio

Q. On what apparatus and with whom did you respond?

A. I responded in Engine 6 with Paul O'Connell as my pump operator, and FF's Terry Parker and Ed McNamara.

Q. How long was your response time?

A. About 3 minutes.

Q. What were your observations on arrival?

A. Sean Ford was in command of the scene. When we crossed the town line I radioed him to see what he wanted us to do. He told me to take a line directly in to the cellar. Sean told me there was smoke in the cellar. There was a kind of lazy smoke coming out of the eaves. There was also light smoke in the public hallway.

Q. What did you do upon arrival?

A. I went down cellar by myself with the thermal imaging camera to see what we had. I could see the bottom of the stairs before I went down. When I got down to the bottom of the stairs I could see across the cellar to the other side. There were a lot of shelves and stuff but it looked fairly organized. I opened a door into a room. I could see gray-white smoke hanging down from the ceiling about 8 or 10 inches. I had my face-piece on so I didn't smell anything unusual. There was some fire at the door that I opened and more towards the other end of the cellar away from the stairs I came down. It looked like it had started at that end and was working it's way towards the side of the house with the stairs. The fire was up towards the ceiling in the rafters. The fire was an orange glow and was not unusual. I went back up to the top of the stairs and made contact with Ed McNamara who had the irons. I told him it didn't look like a big deal and to send the 1-1/2 inch

Fire Investigation Summary Report

line down. At some point I told him not to bring any more people down because the cellar was so cramped. I went back down stairs to run the thermal imaging camera. The guys brought the line down. I think it was Steve DiMeco from Lancaster on the nozzle and another guy from Lancaster that turned out to be Marty McNamara. Eddie McNamara came down with the irons and Terry Parker I think was on the stairs. Steve and Marty worked the nozzle passing it back and forth and Eddie helped out with handling the line. When the fire got hit visibility decreased like it always does. At some point I thought we had it knocked down because the smoke started to lift and visibility was coming back. I told Sean that over the radio. I had taken a Lancaster portable from one of the Lancaster guys earlier. We were doing some overhaul work when my low air alarm went off. I gave Eddie McNamara the Lancaster portable and told him I was going for another bottle. I gave the thermal imaging camera to a Lancaster guy. I headed in the direction I thought the stairs were but couldn't find the line. I asked Eddie where the line was and he put my hand on it. I started following it back and made it to where it formed a loop, which I followed. Following the loop brought me away from the stairs and then back in the direction towards the stairs. I bumped into Eddie somewhere around this time. The smoke was getting thicker and darker so I told Eddie to dump the cellar. It basically got totally dark down there and you could tell it was going to shit. At some point the hose line ran in to a big mound of debris. I figured it must have been the shelves and other stuff I had seen earlier. I tried to lift it by pulling on the line but nothing moved. I couldn't find the rest of the line from there. Someone grabbed me as they were going by and pulled me up but I fell back down again. The vibralert on my face piece started to slow down so I called for a Mayday on my Clinton portable. I took the regulator off my face piece and put my face to the ground to get air. I was crawling and trying to find the stairs. After I called the mayday I put my PASS on by hand and put my ass up in the air so it would be easier to find me. Someone down and gave me a yank. I found the stairs and I think I was able to get out under my own power. When I got out of the building I was really thirsty. Paul O'Connell was there and he started taking my gear off and trying to give [REDACTED]. I was put on a stretcher and placed in Lancaster's ambulance. They gave me [REDACTED]. I was also drinking water. Eddie McNamara came over and asked me who else was in the cellar with us. I told him it was Steve DiMeco and I thought Dale DiMeco was the other guy. I didn't find out it was Marty McNamara until a couple of days later when I got off [REDACTED]. I was transported to Clinton Hospital and then to UMass Medical Center in Worcester.

Q. Did you hear any explosions or see any blue flame?

A. No

Q. Where were the other guys that were on the line the last time you remember seeing them?

A. The three of them were working the line inside the doorway to a room that was probably about 12 feet from the bottom of the stairs.

John E. McLaughlin

Fire Investigation Summary Report

Date

Interview of:
Christine Duggan: Lancaster P.D.
12am-8am Supervisor
11-30-03
10:30am
Interviewed by: Tpr. McCarthy

Dispatched for smoke alarm going off @ 77 Mill St. We were updated by dispatch that a resident called and stated there was a fire in the house. Officer Thompson and fire department arrived on scene before me. Pulled up to corner of Mill St. and Main St. and met Officer Thompson. He advised me that everyone was out of the house. Helped with traffic at Mill St. and Main St. A lot of smoke but did not see any flames. The heavy smoked looked to be coming from the back of the house. The first fire I saw was coming from the back of the house.

Interview of:
Brett Thompson
Lancaster P.D.
Shift 12am-8am
11-30-03
9:45am
Interviewed by: Tpr. McCarthy

Dispatched to a fire alarm around 3:30am. I was on routine patrol on Main St. While enroute dispatch notified me that there was an actual fire at 76 Mill St. Arrived on scene and parked in the credit union parking lot. Fire vehicle on scene, personal vehicle with red lights. Fire fighter was standing on front lawn in bunker gear (unknown who it was). Got out of cruiser ran to A/B corner where people were standing; smoke coming out of eaves. Talk to black tenant, I asked what happened, he stated there was a loud bang from basement. About 2 minutes later the fire alarm went off and he ran out of the building. Heavy smoke; I did not see any flames for a long time. I observed fire fighter go in building. I then saw them running out of the building and saw a blue flash behind them, and it went away. The fire dept. ran hose across Main St. and I went to the intersection for traffic control.

Interview of:
Wesley Moeckel (owner's grandson)
145 Church St. 3R
Clinton, MA.

Fire Investigation Summary Report

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Interviewed by: Tpr. McCarthy

In regards to fire incident @ 76 Mill St. Lancaster, MA. On 11-29-03

- Lived in basement on and off through out life
 - Moved out first of November
 - Three beds in basement, one in front, one in middle, one in rear.
 - Second staircase in rear of basement, leads up apartment #5, this staircase is boarded up and not in use, only access to basement is the front straiwell.
 - Open basement,
 - Bascmnt was divided up by metal shelving units to create rooms
 - Slept in middle room
 - Used a power strip for electricity
 - This power strip plugged into an orange extension cord and ran along the ceiling over the pipes to an outlet or another power strip located on the side wall ("D" side)
 - Does not know exactly what the extension cord was plugged into but it was up high
- Power strip was still in place and plugged in when he moved out, this power was already there when he moved in. Thinks he grandmother put it there

Statement of:

Kevin W. GREBINAR
[REDACTED]

Firefighter - Sterling Fire Department

Taken by Trooper David Napolitano # 2421, in the area of 76 Mill Street on Saturday, November 29, 2003, at approximately 1000 hours,

- Arrived on scene on Sterling Engine 5.
- Set up PPV at the door.
- Went to the third floor for a primary search. There was minor smoke on the 3rd floor and the smoke detectors were going off. There was smoke under the cabinets. They conducted a thorough search, opened the windows. They had no line and the Lt made the decision to regroup and get a line.
- On his way down, he met with another crew who had searched the 2nd floor. Visibility was getting worse and went from real good to not good really fast.
- A Clinton Firefighter stumbled onto the porch and fell down with his air alarm going off, indicating that he had very little air left. The Clinton Firefighter said that there were more people down there in the basement.
- He and the LT started down into the basement and as they did, another Clinton Firefighter came out with his air alarm going off and he also said that there was another firefighter still down

Fire Investigation Summary Report

in the basement. When they got down to the bottom of the stairs, they screamed for the guy, Lt. DJ then said that he had him. However they couldn't get him up and it started getting hot. They called for help and no-one answered. The Firefighter was not moving. Then they got pulled out.

- They went in again. During this 2nd trip, they located the Firefighter, he didn't have a mask on and it looked like he had a hood partially over his eyes. The Firefighter's Pass Device was going off. Then they pulled them out again.

No further information was obtained from FF Grebinar at this time.

Statement of:

Marc R. Mathews

Firefighter / EMT - Devens Fire Department

Taken by Trooper David Napolitano # 2421, in the area of 76 Mill Street on Saturday, November 29, 2003, at approximately 1100 hours:

- Arrived on scene on Devens Ladder 1.
- After he and Firefighter Patrick McLaughlin arrived on scene they approached Deputy Chief Ford and were advised that someone was trapped in the basement at the bottom of the stairs. They then grabbed their RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) Gear and entered the building along with Lt. Hewitt and Firefighter Cullanine. He went first and Patrick was right behind him and he doesn't know the order after that. He could hear a pass device. He saw the ceiling light up and then heard the horns. He took one last feel and couldn't feel him and then they got out.
- He and pat went in again with Chief Roblin. There had been a wind change, pushing everything back, giving them a chance to get down into the basement. They down down into the basement and found him. His mask was off and he was stiff. He attached a strap to him and then handed the strap to Pat. He got in past him and pushed, while Pat pulled and they got him up 1/3 to 1/2 way up the stairs. The first floor engulfed again and then they got pulled out again.

No further information was obtained from FF Mathews at this time.

Statement of:

Sandor FORD

Deputy Chief - Lancaster Fire Department

Taken by Trooper David Napolitano # 2421 at the command Post at 76 Mill Street in the Town of Lancaster, on Sunday, November 30, 2003, at 0945 hours:

- Has been a member of the Lancaster FD for the past 17/18 years.
- He responded to 76 Mill Street during the initial alarm and drove in his personal vehicle directly to the scene. Prior to getting on scene, he called dispatch requesting and engine from

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Clinton. Mutual aid.

- He along with Captain Mortimer were the first on scene.
- Upon arrival at the scene, he initiated command.
- Upon his arrival there was a light smoke condition on the first floor. As time went on, it got worse. The wind was blowing from the AB corner to the CD corner.
- The first report from the captain related that the tenants had said that everyone was out of the building.
- He waited for his companies to arrive and also reported to dispatch that he had a working fire. Clinton was not on scene yet and he requested a Leominster Engine to Cover and a Sterling Engine to the fire.
- Clinton's Engine 6 was the first to arrive. He related that his Engine 3 was out of service and that is why Marty came directly to the scene.
- He gave orders to the Clinton Engine to take a 1 ¾ line into the basement. Three Clinton Fire Fighters and Marty made their entry in the Basement, Marty used one of Clinton's SCBA. This crew consisted of Paul O'Connell, who remained outside as the Pump Operator, Deputy Chief McLaughlin, who was the officer on the truck and also went inside as part of the crew, Fire Fighter Tim Parker, Marty and one other Clinton Fire Fighter.
- As our 1st Lancaster piece, a ladder arrived, Lancaster Ladder 1, with two members on board, one LT and one Fire Fighter.
- At this time, I sent Captain Andy Mortimer in with a SCBA to get me a report. He came back out and gave me a face to face report from Mortimer that Deputy McLaughlin said that there was too much shit down there, not to send anyone else. That they think they got it.
- I placed Ladder 1 up into the alley because of the wires. I ordered them to do a primary search.
- He sent an incoming Engine to the "Sacred" Hydrant for the water supply. He said it was the only hydrant in Town with water.
- He got a report from John Boy (Deputy) in the basement, that they had it knocked down relating that they needed to make it around one more corner and they'd have it.
- At this point, he briefed Chief David Hurlbut of the Sterling FD who had arrived on scene.
- At this point, there was still no fire. Just a smoke condition that was getting worse.
- He received a call from the deputy asking if the power had been cut and he told him no and then he called dispatch to have them respond to the scene.
- The Ladder Officer reported that the primary search of the 1st floor was complete and that they were going up to the 2nd floor.
- Then Sterling Engine 5 arrived on scene and he ordered them to take the camera and one Fire fighter to the 3rd floor for a search. And he asked them to see if there was fire, because he had a balloon frame with no fire that was till pushing smoke.
- The rest of the Sterling Crew were ordered to set up the PPV at the front door.
- About this time, He had the Ladder Company exiting the building reporting that the 2nd floor was clear from their primary.
- The next report received was from Deputy McLaughlin relating that they had it knocked down to start the vent. The PPV was started and the Ladder Crew was ordered to start taking-out the cellar windows.
- Up until this point, the only smoke was alight white gray smoke, upon taking out the

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- windows, the smoke turned to charcoal black, which was the first indicator to him that they did not have the fire knocked down and he then ordered the Sterling Chief to turn off the PPV.
- The Sterling Engine Crew 5 on the 3rd floor reported no fire but reported that the conditions were worsening.
 - About this time, he saw the 1st visible signs of fire coming from the cellar windows. It was a blue flame indicating that they had a gas fed fire. He then called dispatch to have the gas company respond to shut off the gas.
 - Then he got a report that the Clinton crew was coming out and had reported no air or low air.
 - Then he knew things were going to shit.
 - At some, he moved the Leominster Engine to the fire, a Devens Engine to the fire and a Shirley Engine to the coverage.
 - The next thing he heard over the radio was that he was missing two Fire Fighters. At which time, the whole front hallway filled up with Fire Fighters trying to make their way down. 3 or 4 Fire Fighters came rolling out on the front porch. He was under impression that this was the crew from the basement, then some of his Fire Fighters dragged out the Deputy from Clinton.
 - He got another report that they were still missing one Fire Fighter.
 - At this time, the Devens Ladder was on scene. They were the only fresh crew. He ordered them RIT. (Rapid Intervention Team) to go in after them.
 - The RIT made their way down, they tried to make their way down but there were a lot of Fire Fighters in the hallway.
 - He then sounded his horns to empty the building except for the RIT.
 - The Devens RIT were also assisted by members of the Sterling Engine 5 that were also trained in RIT. The condition in the basement was now showing heavy fire from the B Side windows. The RIT (Devens and Sterling) exited the front door under a protective hose line at which time the cellar flashed and the fire came up the cellar and out the front door. A 1 ¼ back up line was used to knock the fire down.
 - When the RIT exited, he had a face to face report from the RIT, reporting that they had him to the foot of the stairs, at which time the cellar flashed and they couldn't stay.
 - The building after that was dumped. (The RIT Team was out.)
 - He then ordered an exterior attack. Lines operating on the D side and the B side.
 - He ordered the Ladder Company to vent the roof and open it up.
 - He then started venting the B Side 1st and 2nd floor windows. His intention was at that point to protect the D side, which was the stair well.
 - After a while, after Keyspan shut off the gas, he sent a crew into the building. They made entry and tried to get Marty out but were again pushed back by the fire.
 - He got a report from the entry team and was still in disbelief that they still had a Fire Fighter trapped.
 - Upon that confirmation, he turned over command to Chief Alfred Leblanc from Leominster FD and Chief David Hurlbut from Sterling FD.
 - He couldn't think at this point.
 - He then went with the deputy to find Marty's wife to notify her. She had already been notified and was back at the scene. He met her back at the scene and notified her.

Fire Investigation Summary Report

No further information was obtained from Ford at this time.

Interview of:
Rodney Isaiah McFadden
10 Neal St. Sumter, SC 29150

Contact Numbers: [REDACTED]

Interviewed at: the scene 1230 hrs.

Interviewed on: 12-01-03
Interviewed by: Angelina Croke ATF

- Attends Atlantic Union College
- Lived in Apt. 2F
- 6-7 months
- Left roommate Lamont Plowden to go to South Carolina Wednesday 11-26 @ 1130 hrs to visit his grandmother for the holidays
- Came back today
- In the time that he has lived there there's been no problems with electricity, gas, heater, appliances
- Roommate called him at his grandmother's house to tell him about the fire
- Roommate says he is a non-smoker
- Tenants are nice, doesn't know them very well
- Doesn't know of any problems between them and the owner
- Owner is very nice and keeps up with the building very well

***** When roommate called to notify him of the fire, his roommate said that he had heard a loud boom went out into the hallway, saw smoke and he left the building right after that

Interview of:
Roberto Reyes Jr. and wife Ivette Reyes
Interviewed on: 12-01-03
Interviewed: at the scene 1:30pm
Interviewed by: Angelina Croke ATF

Roberto
[REDACTED]
76 Mill St. Apt. 6
Lancaster, MA.
Unemployed

Fire Investigation Summary Report

Ivette
 [REDACTED]

Employment Information: Dunn (book company)
 75 Green St. Clinton, MA 01510

Juan Crespo (Ivette's brother) Contact # [REDACTED] 35

House # [REDACTED]

Staying at the Clinton Motor Inn for the next week

- Lived there close to 6 years
- Believes that most of the other tenants are students
- All tenants keep to themselves
- All the tenants are quiet, they all get along
- The owner is great with keeping up with the building
- No problems with electricity, heat, gas, appliances
- Roberto was not there at the time of the fire, @ [REDACTED] Monday to Friday 11-24 to 11-28 and then Saturday as well
- Ivette was at home with her [REDACTED] old niece Kerri Ramos
- Ivette heard the fire alarm from the hallway (woke her up)
- Went to the hallway, didn't smell anything, didn't see anything unusual
- When she closed the door and proceeded back to her room, she thought she smelled something burning
- She went back to the front door of the apartment, opened it again and smelled smoke this time
- She then saw the owner in the hallway who was beckoning to leave the building
- The owner said that something was going on in the basement
- Came outside with her niece
- First standing in front of building, she didn't observe any smoke, fire coming from the building
- She then crossed the street, fire fighters responded, after they went in the building she began to notice smoke coming from the basement area of the building
- Said that at night she shuts everything off

Note-Many of the above statements have been transcribed from handwritten interviews. The original signed statements remain with the case file.

Additional Information

A sign-in log was maintained on a daily basis during scene processing and is enclosed as an attachment.

The property was adequately insured by the Harleysville Insurance Company according to Claims Adjuster Cheryl MCLAUGHLIN. Reference Claim [REDACTED]

Fire Investigation Summary Report

Derryl DION of the Department of Fire Services conducted computer searches of the Property Insurance Loss Registry and Massachusetts Fire Reporting System databases. There were no entries recovered on computer searches of the property or the property owner, Loraine MOECKEL.

Additional reports have been completed by other individuals and entities involved in this investigation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Spr. Robert A. O'Neil, #2430

Tpr. Robert A. O'Neil, #2430

Massachusetts State Police

Fire and Explosion Investigation Section

Evidence

Fire Investigation Summary Report

Gathered By: **Fire Marshal's Office**
Fire Department
Other (see comments)

Description / Explanation / Comments:

1 Breathing apparatus without facepiece recovered by Tprs O'Neil and Cook. Transported to Hudson Fire Department by Sgt. Lambert.

1 Breathing apparatus facepiece recovered by Tprs O'Neil and Cook. Transported to Hudson Fire Department by Sgt. Lambert.

1 Handlight recovered by Tprs O'Neil and Cook. Transported to Hudson Fire Department by Sgt. Lambert.

1 Battery for portable radio recovered by Tprs O'Neil and Cook. Transported to Hudson Fire Department by Sgt. Lambert.

Turnout gear and clothing recovered by Tpr Napolitano/Worcester SPDU at O.C.M.E in Boston and returned to scene. Transported to Hudson Fire Department by Sgt. Lambert.

Photos

Taken By: **Fire Marshal's Office**
Fire Department
Other (see comments)

Description / Explanation / Comments:

Crime Scene Services Section-Tpr. Fisher 11/29/03
Tpr. Fogarty 11/30/03
Tpr. Campbell 11/30/03
FF Scott Laprade, Leominster FD-11/29/03
DFS Code Compliance Officer John Fleck-11/30/03
Department of Public Safety--Mark Mooney-11/30/03

K-9

Description / Explanation / Comments:

Tpr. Mike Mazza and AK-9 Milo 12/01/03

Fire Investigation Summary Report

Occupants

REYES, Jr. Roberto -- 76 Mill Street, Apt #6 Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], Phone: Unknown

REYES, Ivette -- 76 Mill Street, Apt #6 Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], Phone: Unknown

MCFADDEN, Rodney -- 76 Mill Street, Apt #2F Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], Phone: [REDACTED]

LENDOR, Neville -- 76 Mill Street, 3rd Floor Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], Phone: [REDACTED]

DELILLO, Louis -- 76 Mill Street Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

SPEAR, Laura J. -- 76 Mill Street, Apt #2R Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: Unknown, Phone: [REDACTED]

OBANDO, Sergio -- 76 Mill St. Apt.#7 Lancaster, Ma 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: Unknown, Phone: [REDACTED]

OBANDO, Lina -- 76 Mill St. Apt.#7 Lancaster, Ma 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: Unknown, Phone: [REDACTED]

PLOWDEN, Edward L -- 76 Mill St. #2F Lancaster, Ma 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: [REDACTED], Phone: [REDACTED]

MOECKEL, Loraine B. -- 76 Mill Street Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: Unknown, SSN: Unknown, Phone: [REDACTED]

Injuries

MCNAMARA, Martin H -- 32 Maple St. Clinton, MA 01510
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: [REDACTED], Phone: Unknown, Injury Status: Fatal -- Fire Fighter

McLaughlin, John E -- 413 Neck Rd. Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: [REDACTED], Phone: [REDACTED], Injury Status: Injured -- Fire Fighter

Owner

MOECKEL, Loraine B. -- 76 Mill Street Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: Unknown, SSN: Unknown, Phone: [REDACTED]

Reported By

TURNER, Ann -- 84 Mill Street Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

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Discovered By

MOECKEL, Loraine B. -- 76 Mill Street Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: Unknown, SSN: Unknown, Phone: [REDACTED]

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Witnesses

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REYES, Jr., Roberto -- 76 Mill Street, Apt #6 Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED] 7, Phone: Unknown

REYES, Ivette -- 76 Mill Street, Apt #6 Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED] Phone: Unknown

MCFADDEN, Rodney -- 76 Mill Street, Apt #2F Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED] 6, Phone: [REDACTED]

LENDOR, Neville -- 76 Mill Street, 3rd Floor Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

DELILLO, Louis -- 76 Mill Street Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

SPEAR, Laura J. -- 76 Mill Street, Apt #2R Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: Unknown, Phone: [REDACTED]

DUFRESNE, Coreen A. -- 70 Mill Street Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

MINKO, Timothy K. -- 70 Mill Street Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

FRISKE, Heather -- 77 Mill Street Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

ELDRIDGE, Johnathan S -- 77 Mill Street Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

RIVERA, Timothy M. -- 92 Mill Street Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

PAUL, Melissa B. -- 338 Main Street Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

TURNER, Edward -- 84 Mill Street Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

TURNER, Ann -- 84 Mill Street Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

TURNER, Alexandra(Board of Selectmen) -- Unknown Address Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: Unknown, SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

MOECKEL, Wesley -- 145 Church St. Clinton, MA 01510
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

MOECKEL, Matthew -- 145 Church St. Clinton, MA 01510
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

TYMESON, Andrea R -- 861 Macintosh Drive Falling Water, W. Va 00000
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

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JOHNSON, David, Lt -- Sterling Firefighter Unknown City, ?? 00000
DOB: Unknown, SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

MCGLAUGHLIN, Patrick, Dc -- Lancaster Firefighter Unknown City, ?? 00000
DOB: Unknown, SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

MATTHEWS, Marc, FF -- Denvens Firefighter Unknown City, ?? 00000
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: [REDACTED], Phone: Unknown

MORTIMER, Andrew, Captain -- Lancaster Firefighter Unknown City, ?? 00000
DOB: Unknown, SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

OBANDO, Sergio -- 76 Mill St. Apt.#7 Lancaster, Ma 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: Unknown, Phone: [REDACTED]

OBANDO, Lina -- 76 Mill St. Apt.#7 Lancaster, Ma 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: Unknown, Phone: [REDACTED]

MONTGOMERY, Robert -- 50 Summer St Leominster, Ma 01453
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: Unknown, Phone: [REDACTED]

FORD, Sandor -- Lancaster Deputy Fire Chief Unknown City, ?? 00000
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: [REDACTED], Phone: Unknown

GREBINAR, Kevin W -- Sterling Firefighter Unknown City, ?? 00000
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: [REDACTED], Phone: Unknown

DIMECO, Steven -- Clinton Firefighter Unknown City, ?? 00000
DOB: Unknown, SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

O'CONNELL, Paul -- Clinton Firefighter Unknown City, ?? 00000
DOB: Unknown, SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

PARKER, Terrence -- Clinton Firefighter Unknown City, ?? 00000
DOB: Unknown, SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

McCNAMARA, Edward -- Clinton Firefighter Unknown City, ?? 00000
DOB: Unknown, SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

PLOWDEN, Edward L -- 76 Mill St. #2F Lancaster, Ma 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: [REDACTED], Phone: [REDACTED]

Duggan, Christine -- Lancaster PD Lancaster, Ma 01523
DOB: Unknown, SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

Thompson, Brett -- Lancaster PD Lancaster, Ma 01523
DOB: Unknown, SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

DIMECO, Dale -- Lancaster Firefighter Lancaster, Ma 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: [REDACTED], Phone: [REDACTED]

ROBERTS, Alfred M -- 73 Prescott St. South Lancaster, Ma 01523
DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: Unknown, Phone: [REDACTED]

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RAUSCHER, Kenneth W -- 12 Clamshell Rd. Clinton, Ma 01510
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED], Phone: [REDACTED]

MCLAUGHLIN, John E. -- Deputy Chief-Clinton Fire Department Clinton, MA 00000
DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown

SHURIS, James -- Lancaster Building Commissioner Lancaster, MA 01523
DOB: Unknown, SSN: Unknown, Phone: Unknown